

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 PM-07 /074 W

----- 115458

R 160905Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1342

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1538

CINCLANT AND CINCPAC FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ETRN SO UR CH

SUBJ: BLOC SHIPPING

REF: MOGADISCIO 1238

1. REGRET THAT LEAVES, TRANSFERS, ETC. PREVENTED POST FROM MONITORING SHIPPING DURING PERIOD SEPT. 1 - OCT. 8. MONITORING NOW REESTABLISHED. (IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES' CONFIRMATION THAT THESE REPORTS ARE USEFUL AND APPROXIMATE BI-WEEKLY SUBMISSION IS SATISFACTORY FREQUENCY.)

2. SOVIET SHIPPING. SOVIET MERSHIPS AVOIDED MOGADISCIO DURING JULY AND FIRST THREE WEEKS OF AUGUST, PERIOD WHEN SW MOONSOON MAKES CARGO HANDLING VERY DIFFICULT IN MOGADISCIO'S EXPOSED ROADSTEAD. DURING NEXT SIX WEEKS (AUGUST 27 - OCT. 17) SOVIET MERSHIPS APPEARED IN LARGE NUMBERS. WE ESTIMATE 8 - 12 SOVIET SHIPS CALLED HERE: AT ONE TIME IN EARLY SEPTEMBER THERE WERE FOUR SOVIET SHIPS UNLOADING. ONE VESSEL CARRYING NUMBER OF LARGE CRATES ON DECK CALLED FOR ONLY 36 HOURS IN MID-SEPTEMBER. IN
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ADDITION TO CARGO SHIPS, TWO SOVIET TRAWLERS ATTACHED TO SOMALI

FISHING FLEET WERE IN ACHORAGE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. AS OF OCTOBER 16, THERE WAS ONE SOVIET MERSHIP AT ANCHOR, BORIS GORBATOV, WHICH ARRIVED DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 1.

3. CHINESE VESSELS. BOTH CHICOM AND NORTH KOREANS (WHO USUALLY SHIP IN CHARTERED POLISH VESSELS) HAVE AVOIDED MOGADISCIO DURING SUMMER. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT CHINESE WILL SCHEDULE VESSEL SOON TO SUPPLY CONSUMER GOODS, AND EQUIPMENT FOR ROAD AND OTHER PROJECTS.

KIRK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOGADI01538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KIRK
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731029/aaaaavmv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOGADISCIO 1238
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Dec-2001 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLOC SHIPPING
TAGS: MASS, ETRN, SO, UR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005